

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 5, 6 and 7. These sheets, which include FIGS. 4-6 and 7, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 4-6 and 7.

Specifically, FIG. 5 has been revised to add the reference numerals --124-- (two occurrences) and --111-- with appropriate lead lines; FIG. 6 has been revised to add the reference numerals --124-- (two occurrences) and --111-- with appropriate lead lines; and FIG. 7 has been revised to add the reference numeral --111-- with appropriate lead line. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 51 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 51 stand rejected. All claims are amended herein to replace the term "said" with the term "the", an equivalent term that does not reduce the scope of the claims or surrender any equivalents thereto. Claims 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 37, 39, 44 and 46 have been amended to correct grammatical errors which amendments do not reduce the scope of the claims or surrender any equivalents thereto. Further amendments to claims 4 and 29 are addressed herein. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on December 15, 2003 and note that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1 through 51 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 78 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/361,240.

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 20, 24 through 28, 31 through 46, 50 and 51 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,973.

In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing Terminal Disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the Terminal Disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the Terminal Disclaimers and accompanying fees.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 through 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

The Examiner stated that the claims were rejected because the originally filed specification fails to teach at least one mechanism that includes a pump and control system which is configured to level the exposed surface of adhesive material at a precise location above the at least one upward facing opening and maintain the exposed surface of adhesive material at a substantially constant height.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 does not require that the pump and control system be configured to level the exposed surface of adhesive material at a precise location above the at least one upward facing opening and maintain the exposed surface of adhesive material at a substantially constant height. Independent claim 1 of the presently claimed invention recites in part “at least one mechanism associated with the adhesive reservoir, the at least one mechanism configured to level the exposed surface of adhesive material at the precise location above the at least one upward facing opening and maintain the exposed surface of adhesive material at a substantially constant height, the at least one mechanism including at least a pump configured to supply the adhesive material to the adhesive reservoir and a control system to control the supply of the adhesive material to the adhesive reservoir to control extrusion of the adhesive material to a selectable height.” The as-filed specification describes numerous mechanisms for leveling the adhesive material and maintaining the material at a substantially constant height. (See, for example, paragraphs [0044] –[0050]. The claim requires that the at least one mechanism include a pump and control system, but the open language in the claim allows the at least one mechanism to include additional components as well. (see *e.g.*, claim 6). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent claim 26 recites in part “at least one first mechanism configured to provide the viscous material to a desired selectable height above the at least one upward facing opening, the at least one first mechanism comprising at least a pump for supplying the viscous material to the reservoir and a control system for controlling the supply of the viscous material to the reservoir.” This is described in the as-filed specification for example in paragraph [0047]. The claim further recites “at least one second mechanism configured to level the exposed surface of viscous material above the at least one upward facing opening, to maintain the exposed surface of viscous material at a substantially constant height and to increase the effective exposed surface of viscous material.” This is also described in the as-filed specification at least, for example, in paragraphs [0044] –[0050]. Again, the open claim language allows for the at least one second mechanism to include more than one mechanism (see *e.g.*, claim 31). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit none of the dependent claims include the rejected language. Claims 4 and 29 have been amended to include the similar of a mechanism configured to manipulate a difference in pressure within the adhesive material and ambient air to be equal to twice the surface tension of the adhesive material divided by a radius of curvature of the adhesive material as the adhesive material is extruded through the at least one mechanism. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-51 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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KWP/dlm:ljb

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Document in ProLaw

ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES

Serial No. 09/944,233
Filed August 30, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 3161.3US
Sheet 2 of 15
Contact: K. Weber Powell
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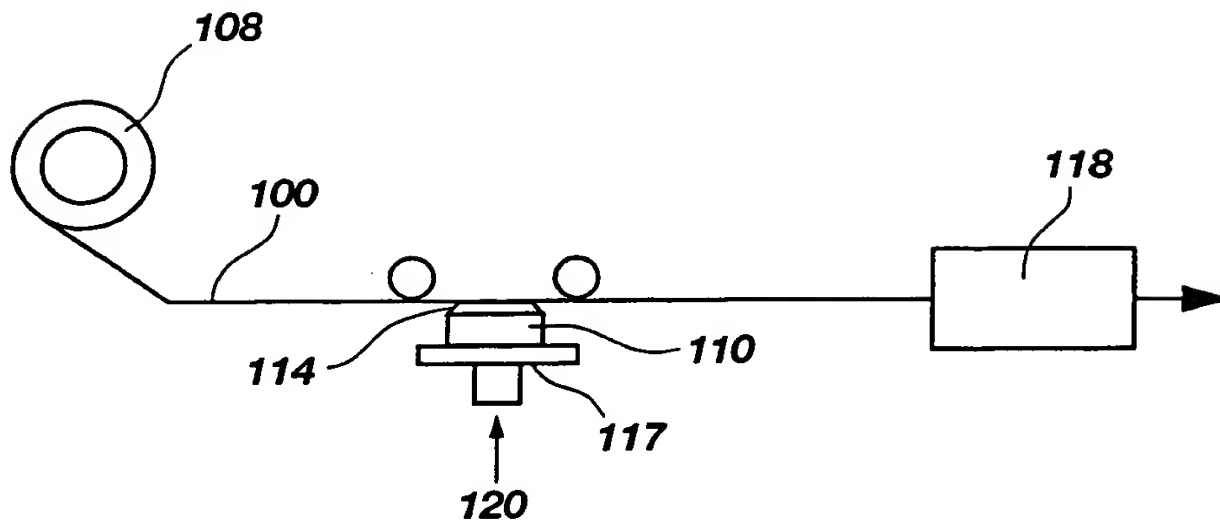


Fig. 4

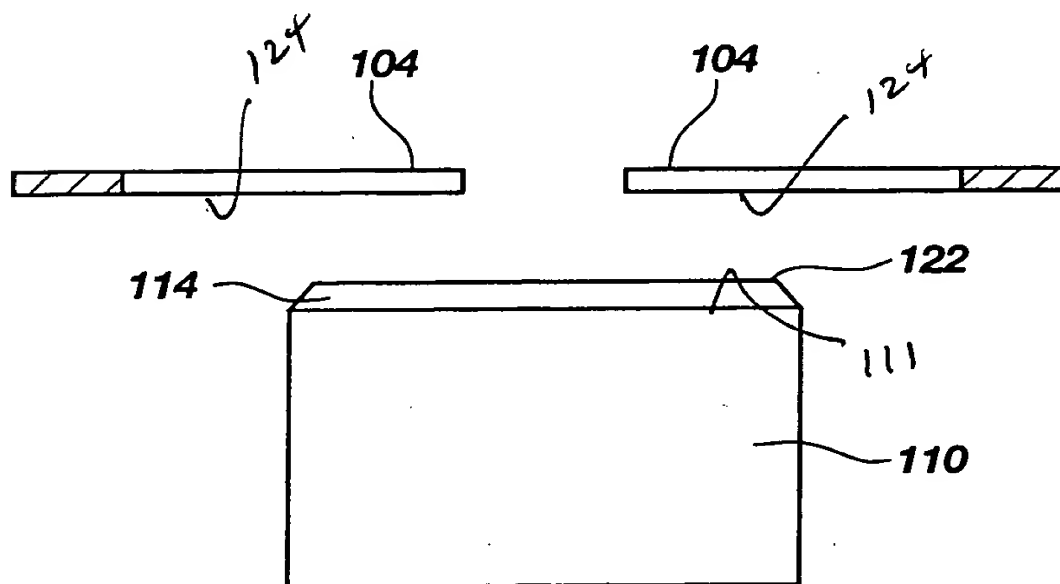


Fig. 5

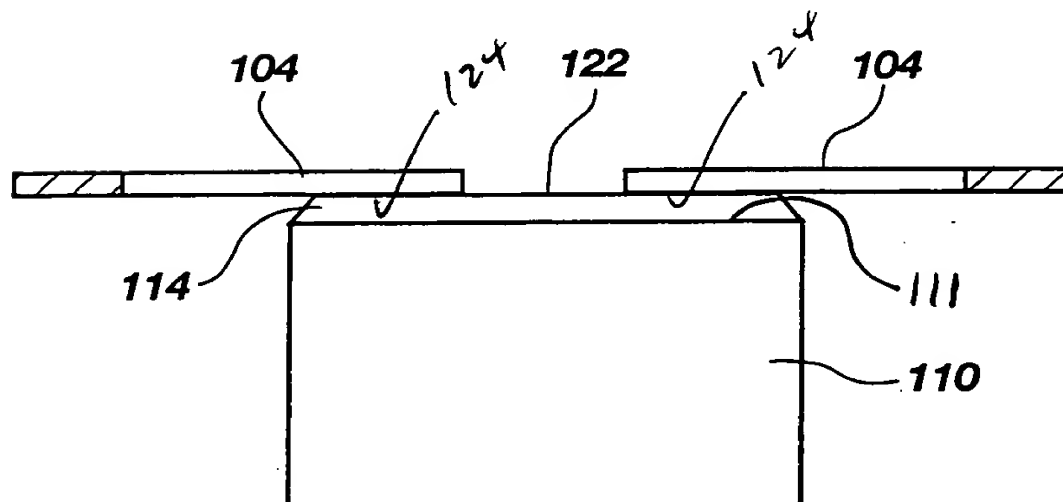


Fig. 6

**ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES**

Serial No. 09/944,233
Filed August 30, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 3161.3US
Sheet 3 of 15
Contact: K. Weber Powell
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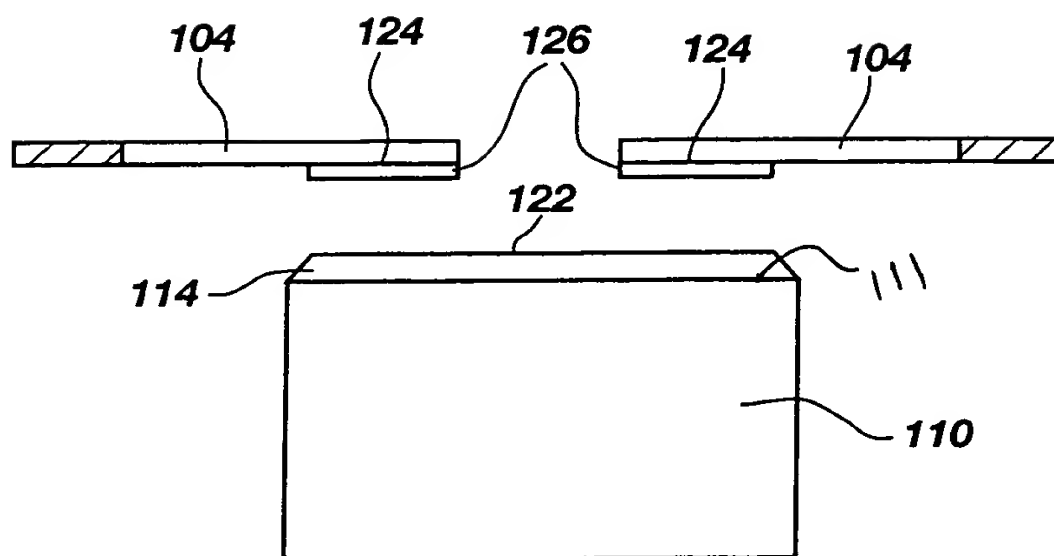


Fig. 7